



TORONTO's



BURNING



URBAN BLIGHT

P. Frank Chartrand

It's been a while since there was a scene report on Hogtown. I host a radio show here in Toronto called *Equalizing-X-Disort* and there are loads of local bands coming through playing on-air. As a result I am privy to all sorts of updates on the local scene that I would like to share. There were also a lot of people who helped fill in the blanks, so this is more than a one person effort.

Probably the most important thing that has happened in Toronto in the last couple of years was the opening of a punk store called *Hits and Misses*. Now those familiar with *Singles Going Steady*, or at least the lore of that Seattle institution can get an idea of the kind of store we are talking about: loads of new stock, ample vintage stock, crates of used vinyl, and a patch wall—a whole store that is dedicated to punk. Sure we had stores with punk sections, like *Rotate This* and *Soundscapes*, and in the past we had some strictly punk stores like *Full Blast*, *Who's Emma?*, and *Sketchy's*, but these stores didn't carry the magnitude nor wealth of stock that *Hits and Misses* has. Peter Genest, the store owner, packed up from his Seattle digs a couple years back and set up shop in Toronto. This wasn't some rash decision, as Pete had always

wanted to move back to Toronto. Pete's older brother was the bassist in the *YOUNG LIONS* who were one of the cornerstones of the Toronto hardcore scene. Anyway, the place is a punk rock Mecca and is located on the west side of town at Bloor and Ossington, 860 Bloor Street West. The store has hours every day, usually opening around noon. If you are in town you should make the pilgrimage.

Alright, let's get into the band news... *CAREER SUICIDE* just released an EP titled *Cherry Beach*. This was released on *Sewericide* as a temporary press. CS want to go back into the studio to re-record *Cherry Beach* and hope to do a full length's worth of recordings while they are at it. They also hope to tour Europe and the West Coast. To get in touch with the band you can contact them through the singer at marlar@gmail.com. They also have a website which is: www.careersuicide.net. Jonah, the guitarist of *CAREER SUICIDE* started up a one man band called *MAD MEN*. Jonah played all the instruments and did the recording, which makes this truly a DIY feat. He has three demos to date and these were recently collected onto one. *MAD MEN* are rumored to

sound like *MENTAL ABUSE*. You can contact Jonah at jonah.falen@gmail.com for copies.

URBAN BLIGHT has been more active in the last six months than anytime during their existence. They have a self-titled LP coming out on *Slasher Records*; rejected titles include: *Blight Supremacy*, *Guilt of Being Blight*, and *Hockey Blight in Canada*. Write Matt Bickle at www.slasherrecords.com for details. The singer Beav has started a new band called *BAD CHOICE*, which takes a cue from *Criminal Damage* in taking influences from the early UK scene with bands like *Blitz* and *The Oppressed*; and some USHC like *Kraut* and *The Effigies*. They hope to record in the next couple of months. You can contact Beav at case-in_point@hotmail.com.

DANGERLOVES broke up last spring. Their latest EP *Young Pretender* was released by *Static Shock*, a record label run by Ellis, the bass player of the *Shitty Limits* in the UK. You can reach *Static Shock* at: staticshockrecords@googlemail.com. *DANGERLOVES* also covers X and contributed two unreleased tracks for an upcoming *Schizophrenic* comp. *THE BAYONETTES* broke up after their 2007 west coast tour, with their last

show being at 924 Gilman. They recorded a final single *Guilty Pleasure* for Deranged that did not get past the test press stage.

LEGION666 has been around for just over ten years now. They are planning on releasing something to commemorate their decade of existence such as a special, one-off release. Last year they released the *Black Goat Armageddon* LP to rave reviews and it is still available through Schizophrenic Records. They have a Germs cover on the *No T.O.* comp. Contact the band through christraper@hotmail.com. Official band websites at www.legion666.cjb.net and www.myspace.com/legion666. Illas, the guitarist from LETHON666, has started drumming for a metal band that formed out of MEGIDDO called SEPULCHRE. They are AMEBIX, HELLHAMMER and SODOM inspired, kind of like the '80s proto-thrash bands. They will be playing their first gig with the new RAMMER band called SE AUGHTERSTRIKE. SEPULCHRE's website is at www.myspace.com/sepulchre666 and can be contacted at: official.sepulchre@gmail.com.

This brings me to RAMMER. They broke up after Al Biddle joined TOXIC HQ/CAUSI. Joel and Dave teamed up with Andy, Eric and Ben from the ENDLESS BLOCKADE to form SE AUGHTERSTRIKE.

ENDLESS BLOCKADE is still hard at work. Toronto's favorite ultra-core band has loads of new releases and lots of plans. Most recently 20 Buck Spin released the *Primitive* full length on LP and CD. A split 7" with Shank is in the works and is to be released in limited press of 300 copies. Fuck Yoga has released a 7" of their demo and a split LP with Iron Lung, but they are both sold out. Not to be content with that list, the band has a bunch of releases in the works like the split that Relapse is doing with Agoraphobic Nosebleed. 20 Buck Spin is also doing a split LP with Bastard Noise, which should be out in the summer. Chrome Peeler is doing a split LP with Uncertainly Trance but this is just at the writing stage. There is also talk about a split with Wadge on Regurgitated Semen Records out of Germany. The band hopes to tour later this year with Hated Surge. Also, the band has an alter ego noise project called DEATH AGONYIES with some self released material, some of the members have some splinter noise projects. For details write: theendlessblockade@gmail.com.

CURSED are over no thanks to a thief in Europe that stole most of their gear and stuff. It became the straw that broke the proverbial camel's back. Chris has started a little fun project called MATURE SITUATIONS with Dan Imes who used to be in the EXCRETIONS. BURNING LOVE was a short-lived band with Chris and two-thirds of OUR FATHER. They did a recording and played a few shows and have a 7" coming out soon on High Anxiety Records.

OUR FATHER has a few recordings that you should check out. They sound like Kyuss having sex with Black Sabbath and giving birth to a crust-punk child. The band released a six-song CD titled *First Glim* in 2006, a two-song demo with the songs "Snow Thunder" and "Dirty Streets" in 2007, and recently a two-song EP on Valhalla Records. You can contact the label c/o Brody Parker at 72 Allensgate Drive, Brantford, ON, N3V 1P2 or go to www.myspace.com/valhallarecordings. You can check out the band at: www.myspace.com/ourfatherband.

An OUR FATHER-related band is VATICAN CHAINSAW MASSACRE. This band has Kevin who used to sing in DIE HARD LOSERS. They just had a full length released on Goodfellow Records and is very SWARM inspired. Goodfellow Records is at 22 Wilson Street, Hamilton, ON, L8R 1C5, Canada, www.goodfellowrecords.com. The band is hoping to go on tour in the States this summer so to book shows contact Dave at: daveocomoro@hotmail.com and for general inquiries contact vaticanchainsawmassacre@hotmail.com.

EATING GLASS has a demo out and an EP titled *Feed Them to the Vultures*, on High Anxiety Records. The band also sounds like the SWARM. EATING GLASS can be contacted through e-mail at: alopecs@gmail.com. They have a Myspace site at www.myspace.com/eatingglassbc.

Fenton and Andrus from OUR FATHER and BURNING LOVE started a new garage punk band called BACKSHOT. They just started and already

have two recordings. One is a two-song demo and the other is a three-song recording that includes a Dead Boys cover. This second recording is going to be pressed as a 7" to be called *Gentleman's Club*. The band will release the LP and you can write Andrus at: 452 Concord Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6H 2P8, rackshotband@gmail.com. The band will be heading out to the east coast this summer.

BRUTAL KNIGHTS continues to crank out the jams. Matt from the ENDLESS BLOCKADE has joined up on bass and John Power is now on drums. *My Life My Fault* was their latest release on Spin the Bottle Records. Jimmy Vapid has recorded eight songs for a 12" to be titled *Total Rebellion* on Pirash in Germany and Deranged is working on a CD that collects a number of EPs. The band will be touring in Europe in April or May and you can contact the band through Jon at: jscharron@yahoo.com or www.myspace.com/brutalknights.

END PROGRAM is an anarchist crust band behind the High Art collective. The band has a demo and a recent CD titled *The Machines Are Only Human*, both of which are self-released. The band is heading out

onto the road this summer and is then heading west to tour with THE MOTHERFUCKERS, THE REBEL SPELL, and CAMBRIDGE. They are also hoping to put out an LP this year. Check them out at: www.myspace.com/theendprogram.

THE TERMINALS has been around for a couple of years. The band features Joolz and Roddy from SPOTTY BOITY and Twitchy, formerly of SHITLOADSOFFUCKALL. The band has self-released a CD that features a Johnny Cash cover, among a slew of originals. And the band also has a track on the DIY Toronto comp. You can check them out at: www.myspace.com/theterminalsrock.

G-MEN has been playing lots of shows with bands like the Dayglo Abortions and the UK Subs. Rick from ARMED AND HAMMERED has joined the band temporarily. They have a new CD about to come out so contact Mopa Dean at: Kill Rock and Roll, 2 Spadina Road, Apt. 12, Toronto, ON, M5R 2S7, Canada, mopadean@home.com.

THE TIJUANA BIBLES broke up but Stacey Case is drumming for a new band called THE WEIRDIES. They have a self-released CD out titled *The Weirdies in 3 D* and you can write them at: www.theweirdies.com. Craig Daniels has a new band called BON.

I SPOKE broke up a while ago. Chris started a new band called TITAN. They released a four-song CD called *The Chrysanthemum Pledge*, which was released on vinyl in Europe a little later. Two splits have come out, one with In First Person, and the other with June Park. TITAN just recorded five songs to be called *Colossus*, format to be determined. They hope to go on tour to promote this release and you can contact the band at: titn@sohc.org. 10 THE LIONS broke up, but did get a CD released on Goodfellow Records called *Baptism of Fire*, which you can order at: www.goodfellowrecords.com. To get in touch with the band write Ian at: xsparkx@10thelions.ca. Sparkie is working on a DIY podcast for post mortems of the Toronto FC matches. I don't know the site because it is new.

Pat Lase of the BLUNDERMEN has a new band called OVERPOWER. They are a streetpunk band rooted in early US hardcore and have been known to cover Negative Approach live. They have a song called "Hogtown Skinheads," which is about some hometown pride. HOSTAGE LIFE has a new EP out called *White Jesus*. The record is out on Black Pints Records and is a four-song EP. You can write to check out more details on Black Pint at: 503-75 Broadway Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4P 1V1, Canada, www.myspace.com/blackpintrecords. They have a split with Calgary's Knucklehead out on Longshot Music. The press has colored vinyl and all that fancy shit, but more importantly contains two new songs, one of which is not a Reagan Youth cover. The band is working on their next split, which will be with some other MARILYN'S VITAMINS alumni. The new band is the LITTLE MILLIONAIRES and features some of the BOMBS OVER PROVIDENCE folks. The EP is tentatively titled *Drinking in the Van Against Racism*.

DANGERLOVES



BLACKJACKET self-released their third CD last year titled *Citizens Epidemic*. They have been recording for their next one and also have a song coming out on a comp called "Turbo Zombie Uppercuts." They are heading over to Europe as you read and you can contact them at blackjacket@yahoo.ca about their new material.

The scene has turned over a new leaf with a new generation of bands. BAD SKIN is one of those bands. They are kids who moved to the big smoke from Galiano. They live in the west end and have shows out of their house, which is affectionately referred to as the Bad Cave. BAD SKIN have just released a new six-song demo titled *We're Dogs*, that you can get by writing them at: 393 Marguerite Street, Toronto, ON, M6H 3S6 or by e-mail at: badskin3@yahoo.com. They also have a new recording with thirteen to fifteen songs that might make up a 7" and might be self-released. They will also try and tour in the spring or summer but write them for details.

URINARY TRACT INFECTION was one of the first bands to play the Bad Cave. Influenced by FUCKED UP and CUT THE SHIT, the band also has a demo out. Their's is an eight-song demo and it is one of my favorites from last year. They have some tracks coming out on the new *Toronto City Omnibus* comp and hope to tour and record this year for a split with the defunct GUNNAR HANSEN. To get a copy of the demo you can reach the band at: urinarytractinfection@hotmail.com or www.myspace.com/urinarytract.

SCHOOL JERKS is a new band featuring two members of the now-defunct TERMINAL STATE. They have been around for only a few months but already they have this awesome five-song demo that combines that early-'80s punk sound with some reckless abandon. You can write the band for a copy at: 68 Crawford Street, Toronto, ON, M6J 2V2 or at: schooljerks@gmail.com. The demos are \$3.00 ppd. They have a second recording which produced a three-song EP, which should be out on Riff Raff Records and you can write to: tonylingers13@hotmail.com for details.

The REPROBATES has broken up. This was the band that the Lovblom brothers helped form, with Gabby, John, and Lenny in the band. They had a couple of recordings together, one of which was a five-song cassette demo. That was pretty awesome. The other recording was parceled out to some comps and an EP on No Way Records called *Stress*. The FUCKED UP mistake called "Year of the Magical Pig over Berlin" came out on a comp titled *Sick of Fun* released by Stress Domain Records. A C.O.C. cover is going on a tape comp out of Austin put out by COAXT Records. And three songs are going on the new *Toronto City Omnibus* comp, one of which is an Upright Citizens cover. And then Lenny, the drummer, split for Vancouver and then came back and their status is a little unsure. Try writing: reprobatescum@gmail.com.

Lenny moved back to Port Dover and started recording some bands like IDOLS DESTROYED. Lenny also played in DISGUSTING BODY. The bass player moved to Calgary for work, which wound up breaking the band up. This happened just after their tour with Vapid in the summer. But the band did release a four-song demo which is still

available through the singer, Gena Meldazy at: 200 Palmerston Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6J 2J4. Send a couple of bucks for postage. The band has a Myspace site at: www.myspace.com/disgustingbody. Gena is doing a new band that she describes as a cross between NYHC and No Hope For The Kids. Gena is also doing an online zine called *Sound Pollution*, not to be confused with the label from Kentucky. The link is: www.soundpollutionmag.com.

MOLESTED YOUTH is one of the youngest bands in the city. Warren got into hardcore because his hairdresser told him to check out CARCER SUICIDE. What resulted is a bunch of kids learning their instruments busting out SSD and Negative Approach covers. Their first singer dropped out at the ripe age of 17 so Warren's brother has taken over vocal duties. They have a four-song demo and a live on CUT tape with their first singer and are working on material for the current lineup. You can reach the band at: molestedyouth@hotmail.com or www.myspace.com/molestedyouthhe.

BORED STIFF is another new band that reminds me in sound of early SSD meets Rise Above and has some anti-cop songs to boot. The band takes influences from Trash Talk, Ceremony, Look Back And Laugh, and DRI. They recorded a five-song demo that is no longer available, but they have a new ten-song live recording from our radio show. They are going into the studio to record a pair of EPs at the studio that HAZARDOUS WASTE and U.L.L. recorded their 7". BORED STIFF also has shirts and you can write them at: 221 Monarch Park Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4J 4S7 or by email at: boredstiff@hotmail.com.

HAZARDOUS WASTE is an awesome new early hardcore renaissance band from Mississauga. When I say early hardcore renaissance I mean they sound like something from the early Mystic comps. They just released a four-song EP called *Poi* on Nerve Hold Records at: 401 Dundas, Apt. 5, Woodstock, ON, N4S 1B8, Canada, email: dandegroot@gmail.com or www.myspace.com/nerveholdrecords. I heard that Schizophrenic might be doing their next EP and they have some songs on the Omnibus comp. To order the *Poi* EP, write the label or the band at: hazardouswaste@hotmail.com. Their drummer is going out west for work so the band will be on hiatus in the summer.

One of our sound engineers plays in a ska-punk band called THE CORPORATION. The best way I can describe them is like a mash-up between Op Ivy and the Dead Kennedys. They have a number of self-released CDs, the most recent being the *Return of the Corporation*. You can contact the band at: 4040 Golden Orchard Drive, Mississauga,



RAH



BAD SKINS



P. Benoit Pagan

MAD MEN



ON, L1W 3A8, Canada.

TEENANGER is another new band that play a dirty mixture garage rock, blues, and country. They have recorded two tapes, each with seven tracks called *Banned from the Beaver*. The band is working on a split with Charlie And The Moonhearts for the spring. You can find out more about the band at: www.myspace.com/teenanger11.

WORLD WAR I is a new three-piece of kids from the East Coast, to a large extent. Lachie was in DIF BRUCKE and Steve Musgrave was in NOT ENOUGH BULLETS and many other bands. WWI has a recording up on their Myspace, which is like a demo but I'm not sure if they are circulating actual copies. You can check out the band at: www.myspace.com/worldwar1music.

FORTUNE TELLER sounds like Buried Alive and has the drummer from URBAN BLIGHT and the singer from RISKY BUSINESS. A lot of these newer bands can be found out about on Stuck in the City's website at: www.stuckinthecity.ca.

Newmarket is a new city north of Toronto and they have had a pretty good scene dating back in the days of SUDDEN IMPACT. As of recent, the Newmarket scene has been marginalized by the high cost of venue rentals. Any all-ages venues in town generally hold about 300 people and as such need a large audience to cover costs since there's no booze being sold. The all-ages scene peaked around 2006 and since many of the kids have come of age and have taken over Tomboos, a small downtown bar. Josh who runs Underscore Productions is the only one booking things in town at this point. In order to avoid a large overhead, all-ages shows have been moved to Sharron Hall about five minutes out of town. These don't happen very often (once every two-three months) and hold just over 100.

One of the bands that I know about are the **SICK NEEDS**, who features Ronald Pagan of the METAL FIDDIES, Kovacs from the THROWAWAYS, and Dean from EXCRETION. They have three live song CD/EPs that they will self-release in the summer and will be followed up with a split with the METAL FIDDIES, and then splits with other bands in late fall. Hopefully a summer tour will materialize. The **SICK NEEDS** are playing Tomboos once every six weeks and the random all-ages gig. You can contact Ronald at: metaleddies@hotmail.com. I don't think the METAL FIDDIES are still together but they do have a 20-song CD available, called *Brains of the Operation*. And there must be some unreleased material because Ronald is working on a split with the **SICK NEEDS** for the summer. It will come out on Ronald's label No Vinyl Records, so it will probably be a CD. Write No Vinyl at: 373 Dixon Blvd., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 5C5, Canada.

A two piece rockabilly team called **BUZZDELUXE** just got back from touring the States and Australia. They have a new EP titled *Us Against You*, and a CD titled, *Buzz Deluxe*. You can reach them at: mika@buzzdeluxe.com.

BS101 recently released a 99-song self-titled CD. **STACK AND LARGE** has a four-song EP out, on AV Tapes and can be contacted by email at: stackandlarge@hotmail.com.

The **BREW CREW** is working on a release for the spring and can be

contacted by email at: brewerewmusic@hotmail.com. And the band that the **BREW CREW** formed out of was **OVERDOSE**. **OVERDOSE** has reunited and you can contact them at: overdosestreetpunk@hotmail.com.

The **FLATLINERS** had a CD come out on Fat Wreck Chords called *The Great Awake* and can be contacted at: ugly_but@hotmail.com.

THREE POINT STANCE just had a reunion tour and collected their previous EPs onto one CD. When in Ottawa they also got interviewed by the *Ottawa Sun* because the singer is from there. Contact them through Johnny Sixlocks at: threepointstance@gmail.com. Johnny is in another band called **STAY YOUNG** and their email address is: stayyounghe@hotmail.com.

Christian Cannibal will be organizing the Punktoberfest event in October again, which is a big annual all-ages show that showcases the scene's hands.

SICK NEEDS

A little further north is a band in Barrie called **GENERATION HEXED**. The band changed their name from **BROWN BELT** and features Ditch Dog from **SONS OF ISMAEL**, and Rob and Scott from **PHALLOCRACY**. You can contact the band through: www.myspace.com/generationhexed.

Hamilton is a city west of Toronto. It is a working class town and has always had a great scene that dates back as far as **TEENAGE HEAD** and **SIMPLY SAUCER** in the '70s. They are kind of in the reporting area of Toronto so I wanted to mention some awesome bands from this area. **GUNNAR HANSEN** was one of my favorites and they reminded me a lot of **9 SHOCKS TERROR**. The bassist released an EP on his label Audio Fellatio before breaking up. **GUNNAR HANSEN** has a bunch of unreleased songs that are going to be released on a split LP with Mississauga's **U.T.I.** **GUNNAR HANSEN** has also committed to playing a couple of record release shows, which will also give the band the opportunity for a proper goodbye. A couple of the members from **GUNNAR HANSEN** teamed up with Jon from the **BLACK EYES CLUB** to form **NEVER TRUST**. **NEVER TRUST** has a demo out which makes ample use of a marching sample that sounds like the "Holidays in the Sun." The guitarist Grant fucked up his hand and the band was on hiatus until he got better. He hasn't, so they have stopped, and the demos are gone. Another good band bites the dust.

RAII is an awesome new band from the Hammer, although half of them live in Toronto now. They have a more straightedge sound and remind me a lot of **ABOUT TO SNAP**. They've recorded a demo and an EP titled *Intelligent Design*, which they self-released on a label they call Chez Ogilvie. The record has just had a second press and final pressing. The band is going into the studio in the spring to record their next EP and a split EP with a yet-to-be-disclosed Toronto band. To track down the EP or updates on the band write him at: wearerah@gmail.com.

Sadly, Jimmy's store, Reigning Sound closed down. The **VAPIDS** released a full length CD titled *The Point Remains the Same* back when the store was open—absolute scorcher. An EP by the same name is about to be released in Italy on Surf'n' Ki who will also be releasing *Charm School Drop Outs* on vinyl. You can write Surf'n' Ki at: surfinkirecords@hotmail.it. The **VAPIDS** also have a song coming out on a tribute comp for the Groovy Ghoulies. Jimmy has a new band with his brother Scotty called the **HARBOUR RATS**. They recruited Ellis from the **ROCKET REDUCERS** to fill out the line up and sound like The Kids, Lazy Cowgirls, and The Devil Dogs. They have a four-song CD and a 12-song CD that you can write for at: 85 Garfield Avenue South, Hamilton, ON, L8M 2S3, Canada, or www.myspace.com/harbourrats. Jimmy has also been getting into the studio with bands. One of those is a new band from Welland called the **ROCKET REDUCERS**. He worked on a four-song CD called *Future's Lookin' Bright*. Some of these songs are up on their Myspace site at: www.myspace.com/rocketreducers. They also have a CD-R titled *You Call Me Stupid, I Call it Fun*, but the band isn't making anymore because they just put out a 12", which is available through the band. They call their label Kick Yer Butt and you can get a copy for \$10 plus postage made out to TJ Charlton at: 720 Meier Road, Fenwick, ON, L0S 1C0, email: rocketreducers@gmail.com. They also have a 7" recorded which they hope to get a label to help release.

The **LORRAINAS** has been working on a new recording: www.myspace.com/lorainas.

corn/thelorrainas has some new songs. One such project involves a LORRAINAS/VAPIDS doing Smiths songs with a Ramones flavour. You can check out some of this at: www.myspace.com/leastlikelytoattributiontomorrissey. A bunch of the guys from the VAPIDS play in a Misfits-tribute band called HORROR BIZ. Scotty left and was replaced by Curtis from HAYMAKER. They have a Myspace site at: www.myspace.com/horrorbiz. Glenn of SAM LAWRENCE 5 started a new band called STEELTOWN SPOILERS. Scotty from the VAPIDS and Crash from SEANDER/COLUMBIAN NUCKLE fame round out the line up. Glenn is the guy behind the Joe Strummer tributes in Hamilton. Check out: www.myspace.com/steeltownspoilers.

SPOILED ROTTEN is an awesome melodic punk band from Hamilton that has been around since the mid-'90s. They have a couple of self-released CDs and they come from the Ramones, Queens, Screeching Weasel school of punk. The band is hitting the studios for the first time in a couple of years to record new songs for a CD, tentatively titled, *Far Guys Are Hard to Kidnap*. The band has a couple of self-released CDs out already and you can reach them at: 153 Balsam Avenue South, Hamilton, ON, L8M 3B6, Canada, email: amprec2@cokeco.ca or www.myspace.com/spoiledrotten1.

RACKULA is a new all-women punk group in Hamilton featuring Patty Rotten from PANTYCHRIST and Alyssa of BDSM BAKESALE. RACKULA are releasing a live disc recorded at a TEENAGE HEAD tribute from Hamilton Place. Check out: www.myspace.com/rackulamusic. Danyell of PANTYCHRIST has started a new group with some guys from the RED LIGHT RIPPERS, called CHOP SUICIDE. They have a four-song demo titled, *Extra Sauce Rock n' Roll*, some of which you can hear at: www.myspace.com/chopsuicideonline.

The ORPHANS has been around since the late '80s and play Nounads/New Christs-style of punk. They have a Myspace site at: www.myspace.com/theorphanshamiltonstyle.

The RESPONSIBLES is a band that features Jeff from RIOT STAR and some older guys from RAYBURNS, MEAN RED SPIDERS, and CRAZED. They have two CDs out and borrow influences from the Clash, the Sex Pistols and the Specials. They have a website at: www.theresponsible.ca. Another ex-RIOT STAR project is the PUNK RODS. Brian from RIOT STAR teams up with Candy of the LORRAINAS and the original SPOILED ROTTEN are playing out and do a mix of covers and originals. Their Myspace site is: www.myspace.com/thepunkrodsHamilton. POISONED AEROS has a Myspace site at: www.myspace.com/poisonedaeros. A new

band called DAWN AND THE DIRTS is worth checking out as well at: www.myspace.com/dawnandthedirts.

Class of '77:

Over the last few years this awesome band called THE SCREWED formed with the idea of playing music that was just from '77. The band featured members from the original scene and is made up of Clave Anderson from the HAFTERED WIVES, Steve Koch of the DEMICS and VII FONES, Jon Horra of A NEON ROMUL, and Steve Saint from the SINISTERS. They self-released a covers CD titled *1977*, which has covers of songs that came out in '77. They have been behind a lot of the reunion shows that have happened in the last few years with nights that they would jam with guys from the early scene. One such collaboration involves a recording of a session with Cheelah Chrome from the Dead Boys.

TEENAGE HEAD released a similar session that they recorded with Marky Ramone, and it came out on Sonic Unyon. Frankie Venom passed away last fall due to complications with throat cancer, which was awful and floored a lot of people. There was an awesome tribute on

Youtube that was filmed at the wake. But the surviving members have teamed up with Tom Wilson to form a new band called SONS OF THE HAMMER.

SIMPLY SAUCER released a CD last year called *Half Human, Half Live*. Sonic Unyon did this release also, which they recorded at Catherine North Studios which was a converted church. A prestigious NYC label called Anthology Recordings is releasing an official bootleg called *Switzerland: Rare Archival Magnetic Field Recordings*, which will feature songs from '74-'79 with the exception of *The Story of Simply Saucer*, which is from '83. The same label has just released a lost Edgar Breaux solo album from '83, called, *The Shadows of Bestave*, and a documentary film by Greg Bennett, entitled *Low Profile: The Simply Saucer Story*, is slated for release this year. You can find a trailer for the film at: www.gregorybennett.com/documentary/saucer.html.

Greg Dick of the DREAM DATES has been doing a series of interviews with these early-wave bands on our radio show. They have been incredibly informative. Anyway, he was able to assemble the surviving members of the UGLY.

Afterwards the band was inspired and started practicing with Greg on vocals and now they have started to play a few shows. Greg tells me that they are learning some material that was unreleased so that is exciting news. And an UGLY website has been built with all kinds of updates so check out: www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/underground/6514ugly.

The VILETONES are no longer, but Steve continues with a band called STEVE LECKIE AND THE SOLUTIONS, which features Gary Topp's daughter on keyboards. Contact Leckie because

he is supposed to be doing something with some of the guys from the Stooges.

DIODES has a bunch of releases in the works. *Action Reaction* is being reissued on CD for the first time. There is another release featuring the *Third of Waking Up* vinyl digital EP, which includes rare '77 demos and alternative mixes plus some live material from that period. There will be a CD of a live show at the El Mocambo that will be coming out. These will be coming out on Ralph Alfonso's label, which is Bongo Beat Records, 2049 Melrose Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2H6, Canada, www.bongobeat.com. The band will be playing some shows on the West Coast of Canada in the summer and another NXNE appearance may

U.T.I.



BRUTAL KNIGHTS

happen. Ian and John of the **MOONS** have formed a new band in between called the **BEVERLY BROTHERS**. I think that is a reference to the old drinking hole, the "Dev."

EXISTERS has gotten back together as part of this and recorded eight songs of original **EXISTERS** material. A working title for the recording is *Depreciation*. To find out more about this contact the band directly through Barrie Farrell at: barrieexisters@rogers.com.

One of the **BAYONETTES** filled in for the reformed **TYRANNA** when they got back together in the fall for their record release party. **TYRANNA** was a second-wave Toronto punk band formed back in 1978. They did a recording back in the day and the material was re-mastered so they could release some of it. Five of the songs came out as an LP. A local record/book store, known as Frantic City, formerly known as Babel Books, released the EP on a label that they started up called Boppy Do Down. The record is pretty amazing for early melodic punk and you can write Tim Hannah at: 123 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6J 2Z2. Act fast on this one. Rave Up Records out of Italy has been in touch with the band about a full length, so hopefully that will come together.

Cynthia from the **B-GIRLS** has a new band with some guys from New York called **NEW YORK JUNK**. It is rumored to be Johnny Thunders-esque. **ZRO4** have reformed with some of the **SCREWED** line up and have been playing out as of late. You can check out news about **ZRO4** at: www.myspace.com/zro4. **JOHNNY AND THE G-RAYS** re-issued their *Every Twist Reminds*, which was recorded back in 1980. This was originally produced and mixed by Stacey Heydon, who worked with **TEENAGE HEAD**, **leggy Pop**, and **David Bowie**. You can get a copy through: harripalms@hotmail.com for \$15 plus postage. A filmmaker by the name of Randy Marsh is working on bringing to life some black-and-white footage of the band from a gig at the Palais Royale recorded back in 1979.

THE MOONS re-recorded three songs back in April. They did "Bust Down," "New Breed," and "From A Window," and hope to release these with some old demo material and some live eight track recordings from back in '78-'80. There is a video for "Reign of Terror" up on Youtube from their reunion show in 2007, and the band made some shirts for the show that they still may have copies of. They also had some copies of the rare

22 Months CD, but you will have to reach them.

The **WAYOUTS** has also gotten back together and played a few shows in support of a **VON DRATS** record release. There is talk of doing a live taping for a webcast. You can contact Mike about those details at: mike@traceee.com. There is a **WAYOUTS** site at: www.traceee.com. Click on Tracee's nose to get there. Also, Johnny Bubblegum let me know that the band has a couple of copies of their original LPs recorded way back in '78. Contact him at: willthecircle@gmail.com. This current line up of the **WAYOUTS** may perform in the future as **GMC**, doing some later **WAYOUTS** material.

The Last Pogo has just been released as a DVD. The new format has some extras with Chris Haight. Colin continues to work on the update, called *The Last Pogo Jump Again, Cha Cha Cha*. For one of the best updates on the first generation of Toronto punk check out his website at: www.thelastpogo.net.

Labels:

As for labels...you have been hearing lots about the second edition of the *Toronto City Omnibus* comp throughout this report. Schizophrenic Records is also working on another local comp called *No T.O.*, which is a tribute to the *Sex L.A.* comp from back in the day. It will be a show only release and features covers by **LIGION666**, **CAREER SUICIDE**, and some others. It's going to be a one-sided 12" on clear vinyl like the original. Craig is also working on a series of old local reissues which include **SONS OF ISMAEL** *Haystack Hardcore*, the **YOUNG LIONS'** demos as a 12", and the **MICRO EDGE** demo as an LP. There is the **ENDLESS BLOCKADE / SHANK** split which is limited to 300 copies, a **DISCO ASSAULT** *Saturday Night Bleeder* EP, a **DEATHCAGE** EP, and a **BROKEN NEEDLE** EP all in the works. For details, write: Craig Caron, 17 West 4th Street, Hamilton, ON, L9C 3M2, Canada, www.schizophrenicrecs.com.

Fans of Bad Productions has relocated to Toronto, the label's birthplace, after 17 years, and is working on an Ontario-area compilation, to be entitled *More Summer Squash*, to be released in 2010 when **FOBP** turns 20. Bands that are interested in contributing should send an unreleased song for consideration to: 297 Westmoreland Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6H 3A4, Canada. As a way to fund the next release, **FOBP** is offering six titles for \$20 PPD. The

titles available are **VELVET CLAWS** *Quarantine 7"*, **FRENCHIS / NAKATOMI PLAZA** split 7", **GOATBOY / DRUNK** split LP, and the comps *The Street Enters The House* CD, *Go! 2xLP*, and *Killed By Canada 2xCD*.

Chris Colophon of **CURSED** has started a label called High Anxiety. Today the label has put out EPs by **LIVING DARKNESS**, **CHEAP TRAGICIDLES** and **EATING GLASS**. The next projects he has coming include his two side-project bands **BURNING LOVE** and **MATURE SITUATIONS**, as well as the **CURSED** recorded at the BBC. You can write him at: crossfire13@yahoo.com.

The drummer from **CAREER SUICIDE**, Dave Brown does the label called Sewericide and has just released a new EP on the label by **GENETIC ANGRY** from his native Truro, Nova Scotia. Dave also did a little side-project band with Jonah Falco called **DEAF MUTATIONS**. They released a 3 song demo, which you can order through Dave at: 1192 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, M6J 1H6.

Matt from Spin the Bottle moved to Toronto to be with his girlfriend and joined the **SCHOOL JERKS**. He runs this awesome garage-rock label called Spin the Bottle.

Vallhalla Records is also putting out a **BLACK SHIPS 12"** titled *Omen*. The address is above under **OUR FATHER**.

Black Pint Records also released a couple of releases by the **CREEPS** from Ottawa. You can write for *Lakeside Cabin* or the new 7", titled *These Walls*. The address is up in the section about **HOSTAGE LIFE**.

Nerve Hold Records is also putting out a **HARD CHARGER** LP titled *Bombs Will Reign*. Nerve Hold's contact information is in the section above about **HAZARDOUS WASTE**, and they have a website at: nervehold.blogspot.com.

Along with the **URBAN BLIGHT 12"**, Slasher Records is rumored to be working on a **CHOICE 12"**.

Venues:

There are three groups of people doing the lion's share of show promotion in the city right now. Mark Pesci puts together both 19+ bar and DIY all-ages punk and hardcore shows. You can contact him at: markpesci@hotmail.com. Greg Benedetto and his Stuck In The City collective are dedicated to building up the all-ages hardcore scene. While

TYRANNA



TO THE LIONS



they are similarly diverse, their focus seems to be on the mosley-er side of hardcore. You can check out their blog to get a sense of what they're doing, or contact Greg at: greg.benedetto@gmail.com. Matt from High Art for the Lowdown has started up a bar called Annie's On Queen and Gena is helping out with the booking. They are an open-format punk bar and have hosted a lot of crust, grind, and metal-core shows, as well as the occasional acoustic night. Contact them at: anniesonqueen@live.ca or www.anniesonqueen.weebly.com.

Adrift Skate Shop has been a regular fixture of the hardcore-punk scene for the past five years. They recently moved locations from Kensington Market to a new store at 116 Spadina Avenue. There was a photo show of both skateboarding and concert photography that commemorated the old Adrift location. Lindsey and the Adrift team acquired an unused warehouse that they call the Adrift Clubhouse. Mark and SITC have been using the space for some of the most amazing shows the city has seen in a long time. Highlights include a secret NO AGE show, RHIGN SUPREME / TRAPPED UNDER ICE, and an insane CAREER SUICIDE show with about 400 people in attendance despite sub-zero temperatures. The lease at the Clubhouse is up in April and they are looking for a new space. In the meantime you can visit: www.adriftskateshop.com.

An artist live/work loft space in the city's east end has also become a hub of activity. The building is called Sista Nouveaux and it was home to the the High Art for the Low Down space — now being run out of Annie's on Queen — and Studio BLR which is where a lot of the smaller SITC shows find their home. A new space in the market has opened up called Rear View Mirror. It used to be a space that housed Bread and Circus. That's good to see another venue in the market now that Planet Kensington is closed. Graffiti's also does the odd in-store show. TOBP's Dee Jay "Ya Ma Bzzz" spins punk vinyl at Mitzi's Sister and is dabbling in booking bands too. tipi.robinson@sympatico.ca is the email for bands that want a gig in Toronto at Mitzi's Sister at 1551 Queens Street West. As Parkdale goes, the older scene has some shows at the Cadillac lounge and Dakota's.

In terms of 19+ bar shows, Sneaky Dee's and Rancho Relaxo continue to regularly host punk and hardcore bands. Occasionally, the Cathedral will have worthwhile shows. And a new disco bar in Parkdale, called Wrongbar, promised to start having regular punk shows, but outside of a HARD SKIN / FUCKED UP show, the space has not lived up to its potential. I also heard that Lou Molinaro is opening up a nightclub in Hamilton.

Stores:

Babel Books is a great new store down the street, just south of Dundas on Ossington. My brother's friend Tim Hannah runs the store. The store has recently changed their name to Frankie City and they are located at 123 Ossington Avenue. Rotate This has moved a little further west to 801 Queen Street West. They are one of the best places to get concert tickets and vinyl. They have a website at: www.rotate.com. Daniel Hannah of TERMINAL RAGE fame started up a video store called Eye Sore Cinema, which is above the new Rotate This location. Daniel does an excellent job of capturing underground culture on the blog: eyesorecinema.blogspot.com.

Spiderman Al has started up a vegetarian diner called Sadie's Diner, which is at 501 Adelaide Street West, and you can check out their menu at: www.myspace.com/sadiesdiner.

Print Matter:

Liz Worth is finishing her book on Southern Ontario punk rock, titled *Treat Me Like Dirt: An Oral History of Punk in Toronto and Beyond*. Bongo Beat is working on publishing the book and there is a lot of anticipation about its release. Check: www.bongoheat.com for details. Liz has a chapbook that has just come out called *Eleven Eleven*, which she describes as being about bad trips, occult obsessions, and surreal punk fiction about death and debauchery. You can order the chapbook for \$5.00 through her site at: www.lizworth.com.

Radio:

"Aggressive Rock" is a metal and extreme music show on CKLN. It is the longest standing show of its kind in the city and an interim management team tried to kick them off the air. There was a temporary stay of execution but they are not out of the woods yet. It would be a travesty if the city lost this show. For updates contact Paul Johnson at: paulagainst@yahoo.com.

"Equalizing Distort," on CHU 89.5FM plays punk and hardcore. Every week we play a demo on our show so if you are in a band with a recording shoot it our way. My address is: 21 Foundry Avenue, Unit 5, Toronto, ON, M6H 4K7. If you have any questions email me at: equalizingxdistort@cht.fm.